



Plane Talk



November 2005

167th Airlift Wing, WVANG

Next UTA 3-4 December

Looking for a Few Good Men and Women – Unit Volunteers Work Tirelessly to Clean up Devastated Areas in the Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina

By Maj. Robert Barrat

About 30 volunteers from the West Virginia Air National Guard traveled to New Orleans Sept. 17 to support the Hurricane Katrina clean-up effort, leaving Martinsburg on a C-130 “Hercules”. Dedicated to serving their countrymen, the group aided the clean-up and repair efforts taking place in the aftermath of the storm, which battered the Gulf Coast in September.

West Virginia Guard personnel were headquartered and operated out of the Belle Chase Naval Air Station in Plaquemines Parish, Gretna, La., about five miles south and across the Mississippi river from downtown New Orleans. West Virginia Army Guard General John E. Barnette was the commander, and he and Col. Glen Diehl coordinated efforts with the Louisiana Guard.

Belle Chase is a very nice base, housing just about every branch of the military, including the Coast Guard, deployed and working in some respect on the clean-up operations. Unit personnel arrived a nighttime and set up cots in



Members of the 167th AW at Belle Chase Naval Air Station, Plaquemines Parish, Gretna, La.

tents by flashlight – a difficult task for those who had not done so before. One of the first sights upon coming into the gate was a large loading zone full of pallets and pallets of

Continued on page 8.

Aeromed Personnel Help to Evacuate Infirmed Patients from Storm Zone

Three members of the 167th Air Evacuation Squadron aided in the evacuation of 117 nursing home and hospitalized patients from the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast to a medical facility at Dobbins Air Force Base, Ga.

The mission was significant in that it was believed to be the first time the Air Force used a C-5 Galaxy to transfer patients still in wheelchairs, which was necessary because of the large patient load and time restraints, said Col. Brooke Taylor, 167th Air Evacuation Squadron commander.

“It hadn’t been done before in the Air Force, and they had to deal with complications while in the air,” she said.

The three unit members, Maj. Jay Sandy, Capt. Jason



Bolinger, Master Sgt. Duane McKee, were notified Sept. 22 that they were to report to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to

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Mountaineer Pride Worldwide

Wynne Confirmed as Secretary of the Air Force

11/1/2005 -
FILE PHOTO — Michael Wynne was confirmed Oct. 28 as the next secretary of the Air Force. He is currently serving as the deputy undersecretary of defense for acquisition, technology and logistics. (Department of Defense photo by Scott Davis)



By Chaplain (Maj) David Reynolds

The Pumpkin Man

I recently read an article in the monthly publication, Our Daily Bread. The article recognized a man by the name of Nick Venetucci. For over 50 years Nick practiced untiring generosity. It seems each autumn he invited thousands of school children to visit his farm and pick out just the right pumpkin at no charge. Nick loved walking through the fields with the kids. He gave and gave and gave and gave with no expectation of anything in return. Just a pumpkin, you might say, but one given with no strings attached and with a joyful and generous hand. The gift delighting the heart of the receiver.

As we enter this fall season and celebrate our own time of Thanksgiving let us be ever mindful of the many Nick Venetuccis around us. They give daily diligent service in our hospitals, factories and postal facilities. They are our utility providers, our mechanics, and our hard working retailers that serve us. Often behind the scenes and unrecognized by others, their acts and deeds of kindness make our lives much easier and more enjoyable.

Stop this year at your Thanksgiving celebration, and pause for just a moment and be thankful for that Nick Venetucci, the pumpkin man. These people are simple, honest and generous, and are a blessing to our lives.

Retirements

Airlift Wing

Lt. Col. Dennis E. Yocum Oct. 21

Logistics Readiness Squadron

Master Sgt. Blaine M. Smith Oct. 11

Services Flight

Master Sgt. Harry E. Baker, Sr. Oct. 4

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Col. Eric W. Vollmecke	Wing Commander
Col. William R. Gain	Air Commander
1Lt. Andrew Schmidt	PAO
Master Sgt. Ronald K. Newcomer	PA Specialist
Senior Amn. Jacquelyn Jeys	PA Specialist
Senior Amn. Steven E. Rau	Admin

3.1% Pay Raise Assured Despite Stalemate

Active duty members, Reserve and Guard personnel, and academy cadets and midshipmen are assured a 3.1 percent pay raise in January. But other key pay and benefit gains proposed for 2006 truly are in limbo as Senate leaders tussle over the politics of passing a defense authorization bill. However, the authorization bill does not need to be passed for the January pay raise to take effect. Authority for the raise was granted back in 1999, under the fiscal 2000 defense authorization act. That law directs that annual military raises from 2001 through 2006 be set one-half percentage point above private sector wage growth, as measured by the government's Employment Cost Index (ECI), unless Congress again intervenes.

To see what the 3.1 percent raise will mean to you visit <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,78410,00.html>



Family Readiness Group



It's time for the holidays – already?

Yes the holiday season is here. Demands on our time, budget and patience are on the rise. Some of our wing families will be separated, making observances and traditions different. We can help one another by learning what families will be affected and taking a moment to make a phone call or drop a line of encouragement. Remember too, if you or a family member need something, or a situation has occurred, it's acceptable and encouraged to let the unit and Family Program know so we can lend support and assistance!

Future Events to Enjoy:

November

8 Family Readiness quarterly planning meeting, 7 p.m. at the base dining facility

11 Veteran's Day Observance, 10 AM

12 "Faith of our Fathers," patriotic musical, 7 p.m., St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 700 New York Ave., Martinsburg, WV, (military uniform is optional)

13 "Faith of our Father's", Patriotic Musical, 3 p.m., St. Luke's United Methodist Church, 700 New York Avenue, Martinsburg, WV, (military uniform is optional)

December

4 Children's Party with Santa, noon – 2 p.m., Building 110 Hangar. Call 616-5576 or 866-986-4325 to register number of children attending by Nov. 28

?? Wrap packages for Red Cross at the Martinsburg Mall, call for date and time at 616-5576 or 866-986-4325 if you would like to join in the fun

The Family Readiness Group is collecting donations, or "gift cards," from major chain stores (e.g. Wal-Mart, Lowe's, Home Depot, J C Penney, etc.) for National Guard families devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Please deliver any that you can donate to the Family Readiness office any time. These families will be rebuilding for many months. Call the office for more information.

Jefferson County High School, a 167th AW business partner, is collecting school supplies to send to two High Schools in Jefferson Parish, La. If you would like to donate any items, please call the Family Readiness office at 616-5590 or 866-986-4325 for a list.



167th AW Promotions



TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL

<i>Michael R. Foley</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>Debrah C. Lantz</i>	<i>OG</i>
<i>David H. Salisbury</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>David A. Turner</i>	<i>AW</i>
<i>Scottie L. Winters</i>	<i>AS</i>



TO MAJOR

<i>Wesley D. Brown</i>	<i>MSF</i>
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TO SECOND LIEUTENANT

<i>Jess R. Karren</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>Samantha L. Murphy</i>	<i>MDG</i>
<i>Daniel J. Powell</i>	<i>AS</i>



TO MASTER SERGEANT

<i>Carl L. Boeshore</i>	<i>OSF</i>
<i>Matthew C. Butts</i>	<i>LRS</i>
<i>Gerald R. Crispino</i>	<i>AW</i>
<i>Travis L. Gray</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>Marino W. Viands</i>	<i>CES</i>



TO TECHNICAL SERGEANT

<i>Jason S. Bowers</i>	<i>LRS</i>
<i>Justin D. Jenkins</i>	<i>LRS</i>
<i>James I. Strakal</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>Jason L. Zirkle</i>	<i>CES</i>



TO STAFF SERGEANT

<i>Carl S. Brooks, Jr.</i>	<i>AS</i>
<i>Michael P. Gill</i>	<i>SVF</i>
<i>John W. Hardin</i>	<i>AMXS</i>
<i>Gabriel L. Hilliard</i>	<i>AMXS</i>
<i>Elaina M. Jewell</i>	<i>CES</i>
<i>Trista L. Pavelski</i>	<i>AES</i>
<i>Aaron D. Reynolds</i>	<i>MDG</i>



TO SENIOR AIRMAN

<i>Jessica L. Kidwell</i>	<i>SFS</i>
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Welcome to the 167th Airlift Wing

<i>Jereme J. Dill</i>	<i>MXS</i>
<i>Carl W. Kautz</i>	<i>MXS</i>
<i>Corey L. Kershner</i>	<i>CES</i>
<i>Atania A. Khaef</i>	<i>SVF</i>
<i>Joseph W. Kinzer</i>	<i>LRS</i>
<i>Clinton M. McCormick</i>	<i>AMXS</i>



TRICARE for Life and Medicare

Beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Part A who decline Medicare Part B coverage will lose TRICARE eligibility (with the exception of active duty family members). TFL is available to all TRICARE and Medicare dual-eligible Uniformed Services beneficiaries, regardless of age, including retired members of the National Guard and Reserve who are in receipt of retired pay, family members, widows/widowers and certain former spouses. Dependent parents and parents-in-law are not eligible for TFL.

Uniformed Services beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Part A are required by law to have Medicare Part B coverage to retain their TRICARE benefits with one exception.

Beneficiaries should confirm that their Medicare status is current in the Defense Eligibility and Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) by calling the DSO Telephone Center at 1-800-538-9552 or for the Deaf (TTY/TDD): 1-866-363-2883. Beneficiaries may visit TRICARE's DEERS Website, <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/deers/update-info.cfm> to learn how to update their personal information. For information about Medicare Part B, beneficiaries may visit the Social Security Administration Website at <http://www.ssa.gov>, or call 1-800-772-1213.

Beneficiaries may also visit the Medicare Website at <http://www.medicare.gov>.

Medicare Part D and TRICARE

Starting January 1, 2006, Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage is available to everyone with Medicare, including TRICARE beneficiaries. There are several factors beneficiaries need to consider when deciding whether to purchase a Medicare prescription drug plan. For nearly all TRICARE-Medicare beneficiaries, under most circumstances, there is no added value in purchasing Medicare prescription drug coverage if you have TRICARE. The exception to this general rule may be for those with limited incomes and assets who qualify for Medicare's extra help with prescription drug plan costs. These individuals may benefit by applying for the Medicare low-income subsidy and enrolling in a Medicare prescription drug plan. Beneficiaries who need an application may request one by calling SSA at 1-800-772-1213 or apply online by visiting <http://www.socialsecurity.gov>.

For more information about the TRICARE Pharmacy benefit, beneficiaries may visit www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy. For more information about Medicare prescription drug coverage, beneficiaries may read the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook, which will be mailed in October 2005. For more help, beneficiaries may visit <http://www.medicare.gov/> and select "search tools;" call their State Health Insurance Assistance Program (the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook has the telephone number); or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). TTY users may call 1-877-486-2048.

TRICARE Pharmacy Program

TRICARE provides a pharmacy benefit to all eligible Uniformed Services members, including TRICARE for Life (TFL) beneficiaries entitled to Medicare Parts A and Parts B based on their age, disability and/or end-stage renal disease.

TFL beneficiaries who turned age 65 on April 1, 2001, or later, must be enrolled in Medicare Part B to use the pharmacy program. TFL beneficiaries who turned age 65 before April 1, 2001, are not required to be enrolled in Medicare Part B for the pharmacy program, but are required to be enrolled in Medicare Part B for all other benefits available under TFL. Beneficiaries may refer to the brochure 'Tips for Managing your Medications' at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/brochures/pdf/genericpharmacybrochure.pdf> for more information about generic medications. For information on how to save money and make the most of the TRICARE pharmacy benefit, visit <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>, or call 1-877-DoD-MEDS, (1-877-363-6337).

Base Commercial Phone Number Changes

Effective 7 Oct 05, the prefix for our local commercial phone number will change from 262 to 616. Example as follows: If your current base number is (304) 262-5XXX, it will change to (304) 616-5XXX. Your old number will continue to rollover to the new number for one year. This change does not affect DSN phone numbers. DSN numbers (242-5XXX) remain the same.

This change was necessary as part of the base phone switch upgrade and increase in phone number range directly related to the C-5 Conversion construction project. All base personnel are asked to make note of this change and begin notifying any external agency contacts. Questions should be directed to 167 CF/SCM at 5220/5112.



Que Pasa!

Aerial Port Squadron – Master Sgt. Janice Hill

The 167th Aerial Port has 10 personnel deployed to Gulfport, Miss., in support of Hurricane Katrina, including our commander, Lt. Col. Kenneth Banks. Also, we congratulate Master Sgt. Larry Carper and his wife, who gave birth to their new daughter Oct. 10.

167th SFS Deployed



Members of the 167th AW Security Forces Squadron pose for a picture at a forward deployed location in Afghanistan. From left to right is Staff Sgt. Timothy Sechler, Staff Sgt. Ryan Book, Staff Sgt. Wyatt Baldwin, Master Sgt. Roger Matthews, Staff Sgt. Michael Seavolt, Sr. Amn. Caleb Twigg and Chief Master Sgt. John Alderton.

Holiday Mail Deadlines

Want that special gift to make it back home in time for the holidays? Stars and Stripes reports those military mail officials in Central Command have announced mailing deadlines for deployed soldiers to get their packages sent to their home bases in the United States, Europe and elsewhere.

The first deadlines — for anything sent by parcel post — will be Nov. 12 for all military mail addresses, officials said. The last deadline — for express mail service — is Dec. 19 for military mail addresses. For first-class and priority mail, all packages should be sent by Dec. 10, except for military mail addresses that have a ZIP code between 09300 and 09399. Parcels to those addresses need to be sent by Dec. 5, officials said. Anything sent space-available mail must be mailed by Nov. 26 except for ZIP codes between 09300 and 09399. The space-available deadlines for those addresses are Nov. 12. For more information on mailing restrictions, package sizes and rates, check with local postal operations representatives.

AEROMED Evacuates Patients from page 1

catch a C-130 Hercules for transit to Beaumont, Texas, to aid in the evacuation of 2,500 medical patients. Upon arriving, they were shocked to find such a large number lying on stretchers, sitting in wheelchairs and wandering around, according to a report filed by Maj. Sandy.

Initially tasked with assisting with patient triage and preparing them for evacuation, the group soon found that it was tasked with serving as a C-5 medical crew and personally evacuating 117 patients, including 71 in wheelchairs. Because of constraints on time and resources, the command post requested that the crew determine if it was feasible to evacuate the patients while they were still sitting in their wheelchairs during flight, as there was no time to transfer the patients to litters and load them in the traditional matter.

“Very few of them had medical records with them, and things can change at high altitudes,” Col. Taylor said.

After receiving the assignment, the crew brainstormed to come up with ways to complete the mission, given that the Air Force has no guidance on mass patient evacuation of patients in wheelchairs. They determined that the C-5 could safely accommodate five wheelchairs in each row, which allowed aisles on both sides for access to the patients. After the aircraft was prepared for patients, they were boarded in their wheelchairs with the assistance of ground support personnel and secured in place by the medical crew.

The wheelchairs were parked rear facing with brakes applied. A cargo tie-down strap was placed through the rear tire spokes and anchored to the floor on both sides. A second cargo strap was anchored to the floor on both sides and placed over the lap of each patient to prevent them from falling out of their chairs during the 90-minute flight.

Prior to takeoff, the medical crew requested that the pilots accomplish an abrupt check of the brakes to ensure the wheelchairs were secured. Additionally, the pilots were asked to ascend and descent gently to prevent tipping over the wheelchairs.

Takeoff was uneventful, but several medical emergencies occurred in mid-flight, including cardio and diabetic issues and problems related to dehydration. However, all patients were eventually evacuated safely.

This mission could have not been successful without the superior leadership, professionalism and medical expertise of the officers and the enlisted personnel assigned to the medical crew, said Col. Taylor. “They deserve to be recognized for their ingenuity.”



Unit Members Have Strong Showing in State Pistol Championship

By Lt. Col. Steven Truax

On Sept. 17, the 167th Airlift Wing entered a pistol team in a competitive match for the first time in three years. Lt. Col. Steve Truax, Capt. Stacey Shade, Master Sgt. Ronald Weishaar and Senior Master Sgt. (retired) Jack Snyder represented the 167th in the 2005 West Virginia State Pistol Championship in Summersville, W. Va. Ron Weishaar arranged for the new team members to arrive early and receive valuable instruction from former national rifle champion and eventual West Virginia Senior Pistol Champion Ed Williams prior to the match. During the match they competed, as a team and as individuals, in both National Rifle Association bull's-eye events and Civilian Marksmanship Program "Excellence in Competition" events.

In matches of this kind, teams and individuals competed against other teams and individuals within their NRA classification. Individuals new to competitive shooting are ranked as "Unclassified" for their first few events and then are usually awarded the rank of Marksman, the lowest rank. Competitors then attempt to progress from the rank of Marksman through the ranks of Sharpshooter, Expert, Master and High Master. Ron Weishaar and Jack Snyder competed in the Expert category. Steve Truax competed in the Unclassified category and, after his scores were tallied, was awarded the rank of Marksman. Stacey Shade entered in the Unclassified category, but he not only defeated all the other Unclassified competitors, he also outscored every competitor in the Marksman. He was awarded first place in the Marksman category and was moved up to the rank of Sharpshooter by the NRA. The 167th team, with two new members, competed in the Sharpshooter division and came in second in that division and sixth overall.

In a related story, Capt. Rodney Jenkins, a member of the 167th Rifle Team, was recently awarded a U.S. Air Force Distinguished Rifleman Badge. The U.S. Army originally created the badge in 1884 for the purpose of recognizing its most accomplished marksmen. It remains one of the highest awards a competitive marksman may aspire to today. The only way to earn a Distinguished Rifleman Badge is to repeatedly outscore over 90 percent of the other competitive riflemen in sanctioned Excellence in Competition events, and it is estimated that only two percent of competitive riflemen ever earn this award. Rodney is only the second rifleman in the history of the 167th to earn this, with fellow Rifle Team member Garey Diefenderfer being the first.

Hope Springs Eternal

By Senior Amn. Jacquelyn Jeys

Sometimes it takes just two weeks to inspire a person for a lifetime. Volunteering with a non-profit faith-based group, 1st Lieut. Bill Brohard, the operations officer of the 167th Aerial Port, donated two weeks to orphans that will last forever.

In August, Brohard traveled to Zambia, a landlocked country in southern Africa, where he helped distribute food and build shelters for destitute orphans. After a year of designing and maintaining Every Orphan's Hope's website for free, Brohard finally decided to go on a mission to personally contribute his help.

"One of the most memorable experiences I had was meeting the child I had been sponsoring for the past nine months," he said. "I was distributing food in a church and as the names of orphans were called, I heard his, Saidi Phiri, and finally was able to meet him." He realized what his few dollars per day could do to nourish, educate, and maintain the health of a young boy, he said. Before Brohard's sponsorship, Phiri ate one meal every two days; now he has three square meals per day, said Brohard.

The peculiar generosity of these children, who had nothing of their own, was astounding, he said. "I gave a hungry child peanut butter sandwich crackers, and before she ate any, she first asked everyone around her if they wanted one," he said.

"Orphans are an amazingly strong, resilient, and tough group of kids. [After everything they have gone through], they are still joyful and appreciative of what they have. I never heard them complain," he said.

Two weeks later, Brohard learned he could give these orphan children hope. "In Africa, I realized that I could love other children as I love my own, that I would give up anything for them." Brohard intends to broaden his contribution to other needy children in the future.



Lt. Brohard poses with Saidi Phiri, a child that he sponsors in Zambia.



Flu Season - Good Health Habits

Master Sgt. Marty A. Snider, NCOIC, Public Health

Avoid close contact - Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.

Stay home when you are sick - If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. You will help prevent others from catching your illness.

Cover your mouth and nose - Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.

Cover Your Cough - Stop the Spread of Germs that makes you and others sick.

Clean your hands - Washing your hands often will help protect you from germs.

Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth - Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.

Stop the Spread of Germs

Healthy habits can protect everyone from getting germs or spreading germs at home, work, or school.

Spouses to Teachers Program

DANTES has announced the continuance/expansion of the Spouses to Teachers Program. Spouses to Teachers is a Department of Defense pilot project designed to assist spouses of active duty and reserve military members to become public school teachers. Participating states now include: California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Texas, Virginia, Kansas, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Louisiana, North Carolina, and South Carolina. A reimbursable stipend up to \$600 is available to these spouses for teacher certification examinations only. For more information visit <http://www.spousestoteachers.com>

AAFES To Start Electronic Check Processing

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service will start to electronically process checks in January. Now, instead of taking up to three days, checks may process instantly or in one day. The move is so the exchange service complies with "Check 21" legislation.

A person floats a check when he or she writes one for a purchase without having the actual amount in an account — and using the typical three-day processing time to get paid or move funds to cover it. Now, check writers must have the funds in their account, or their check will bounce. Electronic processing is cost-efficient since there is an automatic payment for each purchase.

Give Blood; Send a Lifeline

Take the time to donate blood when your base hosts a blood drive and send a lifeline to the troops.

What do front-line Airmen or Soldiers experience when fighting for life? Only they know for certain, but a lifeline begins for them with their buddies in the field and continues with the help of medics, transport crew members, surgeons and countless others. Throughout the struggle, blood is simply necessary. That wounded military member counts on you to donate blood, every time you can.

During the first quarter of 2005, troops received approximately 1,215 blood transfusions while deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The Armed Services Blood Program ensures that blood is available for all members of the military.

At Air Force, Army and Navy installations, blood donor centers collect and deliver blood wherever needed around the globe. If you are an eligible blood donor, roll up your sleeve and send a lifeline to Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines on the front line. For more information on the Armed Services Blood Program, visit <http://www.militaryblood.dod.mil>

AF Museum's 'Wild Weasel' Exhibit

An exhibit commemorating the accomplishments of the "Wild Weasels" during the Vietnam War was unveiled recently at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force. The exhibit contains an F-105G "Thunderchief" aircraft; an SA-2 surface-to-air missile and launcher; items such as maps, flight gear, helmets, gloves, patches, photos; and other artifacts used by the Wild Weasels. The name "Wild Weasel" originates from the U.S. Air Force's first anti-SAM program, known as "Project Wild Weasel," that took place in 1965 during the Vietnam War. The Wild Weasels were specialized U.S. Air Force crews and aircraft that suppressed enemy air defenses, including the Soviet SA-2, with direct attacks from 1965 to 1972. Visit <http://www.wpafb.af.mil/museum> for more information on this exhibit or other exhibits at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force.

2006 Retirement COLA

Military retirees, SBP annuitants, Social Security and veterans disability compensation recipients will see a 4.1 percent Cost of Living Adjustment for 2006. This COLA, the largest since 1991, will go into effect on December 1, 2005 and will be seen in the January 15, 2006 paycheck. Recent retirees may see a smaller COLA according to their effective date of retirement. Go to <http://www.military.com/Resources/ResourcesContent/0,13964,78754,00.html> to learn more about the 2006 COLA.

Few Good Men and Women from page 1.

plastic bottles of drinking water. The Louisiana heat was so fierce that personnel were required to drink water constantly.

Two communications trailers were set up at Belle Chase, with each one having about 20 free long distance phones and three or four laptops for checking e-mail. Belle Chase had a nice base exchange, clothing sales, barber shop, bowling alley and gym. Las Vegas entertainer Wayne Newton, of all people, stopped by courtesy of the USO to greet the troops, and a country western singer traveling with him sang one song before moving along to another show that same day. The Red Cross and FEMA are also working out of Belle Chase, using that location as a trans-shipment point for emergency supplies.

Martinsburg members were attached to the West Virginia Army Guard to perform missions in and around New Orleans Louisiana to help clean up in the wake of the storm. Lt. Col. Andrew Wolkstein, Lt. Col. Sandy Duiker and Chief Master Sgt. Robert Hawkins provided leadership.

There was really no such thing as a "typical" mission. Everyone piled into Humvees and five-ton trucks and went out daily to cut down trees, carry logs and branches, spread tarps over damaged roofs of homes and clean up homes the floodwater had entered. Other volunteers were sent on missions that went out deep into the bayou and other surrounding areas for several days at a time to deliver food, water, ice and other necessities for people hit by the hurricane.

This writer was mostly involved in work at the Jackson Barracks, which is a housing base for Louisiana guardsmen located just along the Mississippi in New Orleans. Many of those guardsmen were deployed in Iraq when the flood hit their homes in New Orleans. Our work detail included going into homes and carrying out all items not damaged by the floodwaters and loading them on trailers and moving trucks. The floodwaters reached up about five feet on the first floor of the housing at Jackson Barracks; however, lots of items in the top of closets, upper shelves, second floors and attics were untouched by floodwaters and were salvageable. Generally, items covered by the floodwaters were waterlogged, covered in mold and not worth saving.

The food at Belle Chase was nothing short of fantastic. The private contractor that served the meals did a great job. Breakfast always included eggs of some sort, hot and cold cereals, either bacon or several types of sausage, fresh fruits, yogurt, coffee and tea. Dinners were a main course such as fish, chicken or other meat with lots of vegetables, salads, milk and a dessert. Everything was fresh and hot. Meals are also being served under tents at several downtown New Orleans locations such as the Louis Armstrong Park and Harrah's casino for all military and government relief workers.

For those not able to make it to the dining hall, the fallback position was, of course, a variety of MREs. The modern MREs are probably the best yet and not as salty as older MREs, and with more variety.

After first arriving at Belle Chase, members were bil-

leted in tents and then later in an office building, sleeping in the halls and storage areas of that building. The building was air-conditioned, which provided some relief from the heat. At the end of the two-week stay, almost everyone had been transitioned out of tents into buildings. Overnight laundry service was also available free of charge. Those interested in volunteering for future trips there are advised to take insect repellent and sunblock to cope with the mosquitoes and sun.

There are a large number of military personnel deployed to Louisiana in the relief effort. Army National Guard units from Illinois, Kansas, Texas and other Midwestern states were also in Louisiana helping out. The devastation was widespread throughout the whole Louisiana delta region and was not just limited to New Orleans. Street signs, billboards, roofs and trees in Gretna were all thrown around, and large metal supports for signs were bent completely in a U-shape as a result of the hurricane winds. Many homes will never be able to be repaired, having been shifted on their foundations from the floods, filled with mud and roofs torn off.

There are also thousands of vehicles throughout Louisiana that have been immobilized by the floodwaters with their ignition systems shorted out. In the French Quarter, a few tourists and musicians congregated around the front of bars and pubs because the electricity had not yet been restored inside. They all waived and smiled and lots of them whispered "thanks" when our convoys drove past them. This author never saw any signs of gangs, looters or ever felt in any danger during the trip.

All on base are strongly encouraged to volunteer for a two-week trip in support of the efforts there. It would be a great experience and an opportunity to support those in need of your assistance. Just about anyone with any job experience or AFSC would be welcome and would be put to work there.

And if you do go, don't forget to drink plenty of water.

Sobering Facts About DUI

Legal repercussions stemming from a DUI vary according to location and circumstances, but one thing is certain — the penalties, monetary or otherwise, come at high costs.

Servicemembers with DUI offenses can be taken to court-martial and charged under Article 111 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. If a DUI results in personal injury, an Airman can expect a maximum punishment, including a dishonorable discharge, confinement for 18 months and forfeiture of all pay and allowances. Without personal injury, the maximum punishment is a bad conduct discharge, six months confinement and forfeiture of all pay and allowances.

DUIs can also be handled through Article 15 action, with punishments varying depending on case circumstances and a commander's decision. Suspension of a driver's license for one year, personal injury lawsuits, vehicular manslaughter and prison sentences can also accompany DUI charges.

Online Commissary Opens for Business

Located under the "Shopping" link at www.commissaries.com, Virtual Commissary opens up a whole new world of Internet shopping for authorized users of the commissary benefit.

Kraft Foods, a DeCA business partner, is kicking off Internet shopping with a selection of gift baskets.

A secure portal requires customers to provide personal information that verifies they are enrolled in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System, or DEERS, to verify commissary-shopping eligibility. Defense Department civilians stationed overseas who are authorized to shop at commissaries may not be able to access Virtual Commissary until the Defense Manpower Data Center changes the DEERS database. DMDC is targeting completion of the changes for late November.

Scholarships for Military Children Program

The Defense Commissary Agency and the Fisher House Foundation have teamed up to offer educational scholarships to children of military families and retirees. The Scholarships for Military Children Program was created to recognize the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and to celebrate the role of the commissary in the military family community.

In its sixth year, the goal of the Program is to provide at least one \$1,500 scholarship for each of DeCA's 268 commissaries worldwide.

Authorized applicants include unmarried children under age 21 of active duty, Guard or Reserve, or military retiree families. Applicants may also range up to 23 years in age if they are enrolled in school. Applicants are required to write and submit an essay on why they admire a great past or present military leader. The application period closes Feb. 22, 2006. Application forms for the program will become available in November for pick-up at commissaries worldwide and for download via the Internet at <http://www.commissaries.com> or at <http://www.militaryscholar.org>.

New Benefits Guide To Be Released December

The Military Advantage: A Comprehensive Guide to Your Military & Veterans Benefits is an essential reference for servicemembers, retirees, and veterans detailing benefits, including helpful shortcuts, insider tips, and answers to frequently asked questions. Pre-order from Amazon.com.

Servicemembers Who Bought Gear Can Claim Reimbursement

Some servicemembers who bought their own protective, safety or health equipment will get reimbursed for the purchase under a new policy approved Oct. 4. The order covers the period between Sept. 10, 2001, and Aug. 1, 2004. The legislation applies to a specified set of personal protection equipment and can be claimed by either the member or by another person on behalf of the member for the member's personal use in anticipation of, or during, the member's deployment for operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom.

Reimbursement is limited to the actual purchase price, plus shipping, of the equipment, and cannot exceed \$1,100 for any one piece of equipment. Servicemembers must have the receipts. Those claiming reimbursement must turn in their privately purchased gear which will be destroyed, as it may not meet government standards.



Air Force Issues Headphone Guidance

The Air Force has issued guidance for the wear of headphones while in the official physical training uniform. Airmen dressed in the physical training uniform are authorized to wear headphones while participating in personal fitness and other off-duty activities. However, they will not wear headphones while in formation, or during organized unit physical training sessions or in performance of official duties. Commanders may further deny headphone wear if conditions are determined to be unsafe, such as people running near vehicle traffic where such wear would limit hearing or awareness of surroundings. They may also disallow headphone use due to operational requirements. For more information, Airmen should contact their commander's support staff or base military personnel flight.

Worth Repeating

"Think big about what you can achieve; think small about how to achieve it. That's because you get things done through individuals and small groups of individuals."

General Bill Creech,
commander of Tactical Air Cmd, 1978 to 1984



Air Force History and Heritage

November



Nov. 7, 1907 — Signal Corps allotted \$25,000 to purchase an airplane.

Nov. 8, 1950 — First all-jet plane aerial combat in history took place over Korea. A U.S. Air Force F-80 Shooting Star, piloted by Lt. Russell J. Brown, downed a North Korean MiG-15.

Nov. 29, 1951 — Air Force announced development of the XB-52, its first all-jet heavy bomber.

Nov. 22, 1952 — While leading a flight of four F-80 Shooting Star fighters dive-bombing enemy gun positions, Maj. Charles J. Loring deliberately crashed his damaged aircraft into enemy emplacements. Major Loring earned the Medal of Honor for his sacrifice.

Nov. 25, 1956 — Tech. Sgt. R.J. Patton made the first successful polar parachute jump.

Nov. 17, 1961 — The first successful launch of a Minuteman ICBM missile from an underground silo took place at Cape Canaveral, Fla. The re-entry vehicle hit the target area 3,000 miles downrange.

Nov. 9, 1967 — Enemy gunners shot down a helicopter piloted by Capt. Gerald O. Young during efforts to rescue an Army reconnaissance team near Khe Sanh, Republic of Vietnam. Captain Young's bravery earned the Medal of Honor.

Nov. 9, 1967 - January 1968 — Capt. Lance P. Sijan ejected from his F-4C Phantom over North Vietnam and successfully evaded capture for more than six weeks. The enemy eventually captured him, but he managed to escape. Captain Sijan received the Medal of Honor posthumously.

Nov. 26, 1968 — Piloting a UH-1F helicopter, 1st Lt. James P. Fleming exposed his aircraft to intense hostile fire while rescuing a special forces reconnaissance patrol, eventually receiving the Medal of Honor for his gallantry.

Nov. 2, 1971 — Titan IIIC rockets launched the first two Defense Satellite Communications System Phase II satellites into synchronous orbits.

Nov. 29, 1975 — The first Red Flag exercise began at Nellis AFB, Nev., ushering in a new era of highly realistic air combat training for USAF pilots.

167th Airlift Wing STRATEGIC PLAN 2005

Vision

**An Airlift Wing capable of accomplishing any mission
anywhere, any time**

Mission

To train, prepare and maintain war readiness

Values

INTEGRITY - SERVICE - EXCELLENCE - PATRIOTISM

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

- * Complete the C-5 SATAF and start conversion
- * Assure the C-5 construction projects start/end on time
 - * Ensure a timely C-130H3 handoff
- * Successfully complete the ESHOCAMP inspection
 - * Successfully complete the ASEV inspection
- * Strive to maintain current end strength through C-5 conversion
- * Strive for zero safety mishaps through sound risk management practices
 - * Restructure the Exercise Evaluation Team
- * Complete an on-base, On-scene Commanders course
 - * Conduct one WMD Exercise
 - * Conduct one Mobility Exercise
- * Conduct a follow-up on the 2004 Self-Inspection program discrepancies
 - * Reduce Travel Card Program delinquency rate to zero
- * Strive for increased participation with our school partners